IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AUG 2 0 200

In re application of:

Akihiko YAMASHITA, et al.

Serial No.:

09/147,094

Filed:

For:

October 27, 1998

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 20, 2004

Confirmation No.: 1236

Examiner: W. Sajous

Docket No.: 107355-08002

Art Unit: 2676

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information items listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the items be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
 - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
 - I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
 - I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

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- c. A check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
 - a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

4. English language references are attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	AA						
	AB				REC	CEIVE	-D
	AC						
	AD				AUG	2 5 2004	
	AE				Technolo	gy Center	2600
	AF						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
AG	0 721 253 A2	7/10/96	Europe			yes
АН						
Al						
AJ						
AK						
AL						

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AM	
AN	
AO	

EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED		
*EXAMINER:	Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in			

conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.